

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 4-6 and 15-17 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1.-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) An inkjet printing method using a printing head having a plurality of nozzles capable of ejecting ink for printing an image by ejecting ink based on printing data which instructs ejection or non-ejection of ink, the plurality of nozzles being aligned next to each other along a predetermined direction, the printing head being driven based on the printing data to eject ink, wherein

the printing data corresponding to an abnormal nozzle malfunctioning in ink-ejection is added to the printing data corresponding to a neighboring nozzle of the abnormal nozzle,

when an N-th nozzle of the plurality of nozzles is an abnormal nozzle, a neighboring printing area neighboring a printing area to be printed by the N-th abnormal nozzle is printed by using an (N-M)-th neighboring nozzle and an (N+M)-th neighboring nozzle (where N and M are positive integers) arranged in the neighborhood of the N-th abnormal nozzle based on the printing data corresponding to the N-th abnormal nozzle, and

when the printing data corresponding to the N-th abnormal nozzle is added to that corresponding to the (N-M)-th neighboring nozzle and the (N+M)-th neighboring nozzle, a driving frequency for ejecting ink from the (N-M)-th neighboring nozzle and the (N+M)-th neighboring nozzle is increased by 2 times, the driving frequency being a frequency for driving the printing head to eject ink in performing the printing and being defined by a number of times

the plurality of nozzles in the printing head are drivable during a predetermined period, timings of ink ejection performed based on original printing data corresponding to the (N-M)-th neighboring nozzle and the (N+M)-th neighboring nozzle being shifted from timings of ink ejection performed based on the printing data added to the printing data corresponding to the (N-M)-th neighboring nozzle and the (N+M)-th neighboring nozzle.

8.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) An inkjet printing apparatus using a printing head having a plurality of nozzles capable of ejecting ink for printing an image by ejecting ink based on printing data which instructs ejection or non-ejection of ink, the plurality of nozzles being aligned next to each other along a predetermined direction, the printing head being driven based on the printing data to eject ink, comprising:

compensation means for adding the printing data corresponding to an abnormal nozzle malfunctioning in ink-ejection to the printing data corresponding to a neighboring nozzle of the abnormal nozzle, wherein when an N-th nozzle of the plurality of nozzles is an abnormal nozzle, a neighboring printing area neighboring a printing area to be printed by the N-th abnormal nozzle is printed by using an (N-M)-th neighboring nozzle and an (N+M)-th neighboring nozzle (where N and M are positive integers) arranged in the neighborhood of the N-th abnormal nozzle based on the printing data corresponding to the N-th abnormal nozzle; and

means for, when the printing data corresponding to the N-th abnormal nozzle is added to that corresponding to the (N-M)-th neighboring nozzle and the (N+M)-th neighboring nozzle,

increasing a driving frequency for ejecting ink from the (N-M)-th neighboring nozzle and the (N+M)-th neighboring nozzle by 2 times, the driving frequency being a frequency for driving the printing head to eject ink in performing the printing and being defined by the number of times the plurality of nozzles in the printing head are drivable during a predetermined period, timings of ink ejection performed based on original printing data corresponding to the (N-M)-th neighboring nozzle and the (N+M)-th neighboring nozzle being shifted from timings of ink ejection performed based on the printing data added to the printing data corresponding to the (N-M)-th neighboring nozzle and the (N+M)-th neighboring nozzle.

19.-22. (Cancelled)